

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO ALLOW TV BROADCASTING OF TRIALS IN FEDERAL COURTS SAYS CHANGE WILL OPEN UP FEDERAL COURT SYSTEM TO PUBLIC

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) is teaming up with Senators Charles Grassley (R-IA) and Charles Schumer (D-NY) to introduce legislation (S. 986) which would permit televising of federal court proceedings at the discretion of the presiding judge.

“Our founding fathers intended for our court system to be open to the general public,” Allard said. “This legislation opens up the federal courts to allow citizens to view and hear court proceedings and will bring the federal judiciary into the 21st Century.”

If enacted, the legislation would allow the presiding judge of a U.S. Appellate or District Court to permit photographing, electronic recording, broadcasting, or televising to the public of court proceedings. The bill protects the anonymity of non-party witnesses by giving them the right to have their voices and images obscured during testimony.

“The public has the right to see how justice is carried out,” added Allard. “The Supreme Court has already said ‘what transpires in the courtroom is public property’ our legislation simply puts in place a plan to allow the public to see how our federal judicial system operates.”

A bi-partisan group of Senators have co-sponsored the bill, including the new Senate Judiciary Chairman Pat Leahy (D-VT), Senators Bob Smith (R-NH), Russ Feingold (D-WI) and Arlen Specter (R-PA) In addition a companion bill has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Steve Chabot (R-OH).

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